



# BEST OF ROUTEBURN, KEPLER AND MILFORD TRACK

## ITINERARY



Experience the very best Fiordland has to offer—with a guided day hike on each of the iconic Kepler, Milford, and Routeburn Tracks. It’s the perfect mix of adventure and variety, all wrapped into one soul-stirring journey. Each trail reveals a different side of this dramatic landscape—think lush native forests, crystal-clear rivers and lakes, soaring alpine views, vast fiords, and mossy valleys that feel straight out of a fairytale. See New Zealand wilderness at its most breathtaking.

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|-------------------|---|
| <b>LENGTH</b>     | 5 days  |
| <b>GRADE</b>      | B: (Reasonable fitness required, carrying day packs)  |
| <b>START</b>      | Te Anau, 2.00pm, Distinction Luxmore  |
| <b>FINISH</b>     | Te Anau, 10.00am, Distinction Luxmore   |
| <b>DEPARTURES</b> | <b>2025 - 2026</b><br>October 2025: 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30<br>November 2025: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29<br>December 2025: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 31<br>January 2026: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30<br>February 2026: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27<br>March 2026: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29<br>April 2026: 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27 |
| <b>PRICE</b>      | Adult NZ\$2,055.50<br>Adult with Single supplement NZ\$2,545.00 (compulsory for solo hikers)  |

### “AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE”

A helihike on Kepler, Milford sound walk and cruise, and the Routeburn track. Brilliant guides ...explaining about the hills, woodlands and wildlife. Being guided made a real difference and I can't recommend this enough.

~ Rob S - November 2024, Trip Advisor ~

### “GREAT WALKS - MUST DO!!!”

It was honestly some of the best days of my life! Everything was organized really well, the trip leaders were knowledgeable and relatable and did their absolute best to make the experience great for everyone. Jeff, Jane, and Madeline did such an amazing job, couldn't have asked for better!!

~ Samantha M - March 2024, Trip Advisor ~

# ITINERARY

## DAY 1 TE ANAU

Welcome to the gateway of one of the most awe-inspiring places on Earth, Fiordland National Park!

Check-in and settle into your accommodation at your own pace. Whether you've travelled from near or far, we hope the journey here was smooth and filled with anticipation. After check-in, take some time to unwind and explore the local surroundings. Maybe take a leisurely stroll along the lakefront, enjoy a meal at one of the nearby restaurants, or simply relax and soak up the peaceful atmosphere, you're on Fiordland time now.

If you're keen to stretch your legs, there are some lovely short walks nearby or a few great spots to catch the sunset. Rest well tonight, your adventure begins soon! *Accommodation: Distinction Luxmore, Te Anau.*

## DAY 2 KEPLER TRACK

Up to 6km (4 miles), 3 hours hiking, elevation +/- 50m, or heli-hike up to 16km (10 miles), 6 hours hiking, elevation +/- 1000m

You'll be collected from your hotel to begin your hiking adventure with a morning briefing, where your guide will outline the itinerary and ensure everyone is well prepared. It's a great chance to meet fellow hikers, ask questions, and organise any extra gear you may need—such as rain jackets or walking poles, available on loan at no extra cost.

Start your adventure with a scenic and relaxed day exploring the Kepler Track by land and water. Begin with an exhilarating jetboat ride along the Waiau River—famously featured in *The Lord of the Rings*—followed by a peaceful cruise across Lake Manapouri, framed by ancient beech forest and sandy coves.

From there, enjoy a 3-hour guided walk on a flat, well-maintained section of the Kepler Track, featuring native forest, wetlands, lake views, and swing bridges. *Accommodation: Distinction Luxmore, Te Anau. Includes breakfast and lunch.*

Optional upgrade - Kepler Heli-Hike.

Instead of the jet boat trip, you can experience an exciting heli-hike on the Kepler Track, perfect for those seeking a more challenging adventure. Your journey begins with a short spectacular helicopter flight, soaring over hidden lakes before landing at Luxmore Hut, from here, the hike starts in the alpine area, offering expansive views before descending through majestic beech forest.

As you descend, witness the dramatic changes in the landscape as altitude and weather conditions shift, creating a stunning variety of flora. The track leads you towards Lake Te Anau, meandering through native ferns before finishing at the sandy beach of Brod Bay, where a water taxi will transport you back to Te Anau Township.

This more demanding option provides a rewarding mix of alpine and forest terrain, ideal for experienced hikers wanting to experience the rugged beauty of Fiordland. This upgrade is available to request at the time of booking and is an additional NZD\$290 per person.



## DAY 3 MILFORD TRACK

Up to 11km (6.5 miles), 4 hours hiking, elevation +/-50m (160ft)

Start your day early with a scenic journey from Te Anau to Milford Sound, a spectacular drive in its own right, the set out on a guided walk to Giant Gate Waterfall on the world-renowned Milford Track.

From Milford Sound, a short boat ride takes you across to Sandfly Point, the starting point of your walk. The trail gently follows the cascading Arthur River through lush rainforest, leading to the impressive Giant Gate Falls – best viewed from the swing bridge that spans the river below. Along the way, your guide will point out native flora, ancient forest giants, vibrant mosses and ferns, and the unique birdlife that call this special environment home.

After the walk, your Milford Sound experience continues with a 2-hour small boat nature cruise. With both indoor and outdoor viewing areas, you'll enjoy up-close views of sheer cliffs, tumbling waterfalls, glaciers, rainforest, and the majestic Mitre Peak – a truly unforgettable Fiordland experience. *Accommodation: Distinction Luxmore, Te Anau. Includes breakfast and lunch.*

## DAY 4 ROUTEBURN TRACK

Up to 7 km (4.5 miles), 5 hours hiking, elevation +/- 400m (1300ft)

Enjoy your final hiking day with a scenic journey along the spectacular Milford Road, including time for short walks and photo stops at key viewpoints and natural highlights on the way to the main mountain divide.

The main event is a guided walk to Key Summit on the renowned Routeburn Track, one of New Zealand's Great Walks. This stunning trail climbs through lush temperate rainforest before emerging into a unique alpine environment rich with specialised herbs and plant life. At the summit, take in breathtaking panoramic views of snow-capped peaks, alpine tarns, and glacier-carved valleys draped in native forest.

Lunch is enjoyed on the summit or by the peaceful shores of Lake Howden. Walking in a small group, you'll gain a deeper appreciation for this remarkable landscape with insights and stories shared by your knowledgeable guide. *Accommodation: Distinction Luxmore, Te Anau. Includes breakfast and lunch.*

## DAY 5 TE ANAU

Check-out from your accommodation this morning after a magical journey exploring the breathtaking landscapes of Fiordland National Park.

There are no guided activities scheduled, just a gentle farewell as you ease back into the rhythm of travel. Take your time this morning. Enjoy a final wander through the township, grab a coffee from a local café, or simply sit and take in the view one last time. *Includes breakfast.*



# LIFE ON THE TRAIL

## GRADE B

The Great Walks follow mostly well-formed tracks with steps or zigzags on steeper sections. This trip is suitable for most ages (8+) who can comfortably walk 3 to 6 hours, including hills. The Kepler Heli-hike is the most challenging day, mainly due to sustained downhill sections that can affect knees. Your guide will plan each day with the landscape, weather, and group fitness in mind to ensure the best experience. A good level of fitness, including hill training, is recommended. You will get the most out of this trip if you can walk for 4 hours on varied, sometimes rough or rocky terrain. While we can accommodate most medical conditions, it is important to let your guide know about these in advance, as existing aches and pains can be aggravated.\*

\* This trip is not recommended for guests with neurological conditions affecting stability, mobility, or decision making; recent knee injuries or surgery; or moderate to severe joint or heart conditions. It may also not be ideal for those who prefer a faster or more demanding pace, or who would rather hike independently than in a group. We're always happy to tailor these Great Walks on a private basis to meet most needs. If any of these apply to you, please contact us to discuss booking a private trip.

## TRANSPORT

You will be collected from your Te Anau hotel each morning and transported to your hikes using quality modern vehicles, fitted out for touring requirements.



## ACCOMMODATION

The Distinction Luxmore Hotel in Te Anau will be your home base each night of your stay. The accommodation offers free unlimited WIFI and two on-site restaurants and is nestled in the heart of Te Anau, an easy walk from anywhere in the town!

Hotel upgrade available: Upgrade your accommodation and base yourself in a Lakeview Room\* at the Distinction Te Anau Hotel and Villas. Surrounded by extensive, colourful gardens and overlooking spectacular Lake Te Anau and the Fiordland ranges, this 4 star hotel offer an elegant option for your time on the hiking package.

\*Though we attempt to provide a Lakeview room, on occasion this may not always be available so we will provide a Run of House room, and waitlist for the Lakeview room. Limited availability, on request only.

## GUIDES AND SAFETY

Your safety is always our priority. Your guides are trained in first aid plus emergency procedures and will carry a first aid kit and emergency equipment. Communication outside Te Anau and on our walks is limited. The guides do have communication available to them in the unlikely case of an emergency. In some cases, you may have more than one guide on a trip.



## FOOD

Your breakfast is included each morning and served at your hotel before the day's activities. We'll provide a hearty packed lunch each day (excluding water), which is generally enough to keep you going on the trail, but you're welcome to bring extra hiking snacks if you'd like. Dinner is at your own cost and plans each evening, giving you the flexibility to choose where and what you'd like to eat, from local restaurants to casual cafes, so you can enjoy the area's dining options at your own pace



# LIFE ON THE TRAIL

## ADDITIONAL COSTS

- Dinner

## BOOKING CONDITIONS

### Payment

For bookings made four or more months prior to the departure date, a 25% deposit is required, with the remainder due 95 days before your trip. For bookings made within four months of the departure date, full payment is required at the time of booking.

### Cancellations:

7 days or more prior to departure date: Full refund

7 days or less: 100% of the tour price forfeited.

The tour price is all-inclusive.

There will be no partial refunds or credits for unused services within a tour. Any unpaid, forfeited amount may be pursued as a debt.

### Travel Insurance

It is suggested that clients take out comprehensive travel insurance.

## Disclaimer

When booking please indicate if you would like to participate in the Kepler Heli-hiking upgrade. Walks may be arranged in a different order due to weather or operational considerations. Prices and itineraries are subject to change.

The guide reserves the right to modify the trip itinerary, or to exclude any guest from participation (including future tours), if they believe a person's health, preparedness, conduct, or gear poses a risk to themselves or others, or if tour conditions require a change. The operator may cancel, postpone, or alter tours due to weather conditions, safety considerations, or circumstances beyond our reasonable control. In such cases, a partial refund may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

In participating in the activity, the customer confirms:

They are physically fit to participate, have disclosed any relevant medical information, and meet the minimum fitness levels required. They consent to receive medical treatment in the case of injury, accident, or illness during the activity and to indemnify the Operator against any claims, costs or expenses in respect of the evacuation and or treatment.

They will bring suitable clothing, footwear and equipment for the tour as outlined. They will follow the directions of Trips and Tramps staff and any third-party operators, and will participate in good faith. Caregivers will supervise their children at all times and ensure they follow the directions of staff and third-party operators.

# PACKING LIST

## ESSENTIAL ITEMS

- Base layer – wool/merino or polypropylene thermal long sleeve top and bottoms
- First layer T-shirt – wool or quick drying fabric (not cotton)
- Outer layer – Warmer, thicker layer, made of wool or fleece
- Rain jacket – Wind and waterproof jacket (we can lend you one if you need something heavy duty). This is an essential piece of equipment in Fiordland and should be carried every day no matter the weather forecast
- Boots (or sturdy walking shoes with good grip) – ankle support is recommended, and they should be well 'broken-in'
- Trousers/tights or shorts – quick drying and light weight is best. Not cotton or denim
- Socks – wool or thermal blend
- Hat – wool/fleece and brimmed hat for sun protection
- Day pack – about 25 litres is good. Please ensure you have space for the lunch provided

## ITEMS TO HAVE IN YOUR PACK EVERYDAY

- Gloves – wool or fleece
- Waterproof trousers (we can lend these).
- Walking poles (we can lend these)

- Water bottle – make sure it is full before you leave each day. At least 1 litre is recommended
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent (just keep this in your pack and use only if required). We prefer you use non-deet product to protect clothing and gear
- Personal medication
- Camera or phone for photos

## OTHER THINGS TO BRING

- On the Milford Track day, we recommend you take a spare set of clothes and shoes for the cruise which you can leave in the vehicle during the walk
- We provide a hearty lunch each day (excluding water), which is generally sufficient to keep you going, but bring additional hiking snacks if you like too
- Casual clothing for your evenings

This clothing will keep you warm and comfortable during outdoor activities - cotton clothing is not suitable for hiking in.